

MEMORANDUM

March 15, 2021

TO: The Honorable Chair and Members of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools *mc*

SUBJECT: STAFF FOLLOW-UP: SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 21, 2020, AGENDA ITEM H-18 OFFERING CHOICE THROUGH VIRTUAL PLATFORMS

At the School Board meeting of October 21, 2020, the Board approved Agenda Item H-18, proffered by School Board Member Dr. Martin Karp. This item directed the Superintendent to 1) utilizing virtual platforms that enable choice of classes at different schools; 2) if warranted, expanding student services that transcends site-specific enrollment restrictions and considers greater access to specialists; and 3) provide a response to the School Board no later than the School Board meeting of March 2021.

A learning management system (LMS) is designed to manage educational coursework online, providing educators with a single platform to centralize learning, including lesson content, assignments, and assessments. The delivery of online learning through an LMS provides a connected and accessible educational experience for students in multiple modalities such as blended learning, synchronous and asynchronous online learning, and hybrid courses.

The District is in the process of acquiring an LMS that will eventually provide a platform to deliver online distance learning and blended learning. The LMS will support and enable student collaboration in a learner centric and social networking environment to facilitate high-yield teaching strategies. The LMS will host teacher webpages and course creation tools and will provide content for core content areas. When the LMS is completely implemented, it will support teacher collaboration, co-teaching opportunities, coaching model lessons, and professional development. The LMS will eventually allow integration of third-party content providers which will facilitate the use of curricula developed by existing District partners and further enhance teaching and learning. The goal is to develop a platform where teachers and students will have access to data analytics, sharing of resources, diverse media, teleconferencing, and the ability to interface with other applications currently in use within the District.

Once the LMS is in place, the Office of Academics and Transformation will consider the feasibility of offering virtual courses both full-time as well as part-time to provide access to electives and core courses. This will increase student and teacher collaboration across the District as well as provide opportunities to offer curricular enrichment at the secondary grade levels. Online learning gives teachers the opportunity to support students who have varying levels of proficiency by offering flexible scheduling, as well as supporting at-risk

MEMORANDUM

March 12, 2021

TO: The Honorable Chair and Members of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools *amc/ja*

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The Department of Exceptional Student Education is currently expanding services and transcending site-specific enrollment restrictions for behavioral therapy, social work, and other services through virtual platforms and will transition to the LMS upon integration with enhanced services increasing accessibility for all students.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Dr. Sylvia J. Diaz, Chief Academic Officer, Office of Academics and Transformation, at 305 995-1451.

AMC:kh
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cc: School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Cabinet
School Board Agenda Office